

Rhodes Rules School



How Many Strokes?

*Describing 99 Holes of golf during which the players
experience a wide variety of Rules situations
that are regularly encountered on the golf course*

Barry Rhodes

Welcome to the '*How Many Strokes?*' series of *Rhodes Rules School*. There are 99 descriptions of players playing a single hole of golf during which multiple Rules situations occur. Your task is to assess what the player's score is for the hole. Naturally, I provide my answers with references to the relevant Rule or Decision and explanations, where necessary. I hope that you will find this an innovative way to improve your understanding of the Rules of Golf, and the penalties that may apply, in an enjoyable and challenging format.

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Question 1:

Aidan drives his ball from the teeing ground into a bunker. He removes a leaf from behind his ball and plays out into an area of light rough. As he is searching for his ball he accidentally kicks it forward a few inches. He picks up his ball, cleans it and replaces it exactly where it was before he caused it to move. He then pitches his ball onto the putting green and sinks a good 15-foot putt. What is Aidan's score for the hole?

19th Hole Titbit - Do You Know?

You may touch your ball with your club without incurring a penalty, providing the ball does not move. Decision 18/2.

Answer 1:

- 1 - Drive from the teeing ground into the bunker.
 - 2 & 3 - Two penalty strokes for removing a loose impediment from the bunker (Rule 23-1).
 - 4 - Stroke from the bunker into light rough.
 - 5 - One penalty stroke for moving his ball in play (Rule 18-2a). Aidan was correct in replacing his ball where it was before he moved it and he was permitted to clean it (Decision 18-2a/13).
 - 6 - Pitch onto the putting green.
 - 7 - Putt into the hole.
- Aidan scores 7 for the hole.